

On this 20th Anniversary of the implementation of the 26th Amendment, I look on with pride as my daughters Melanie (18) and Desiree (19) cast their votes this November 5th. I realize that not all young people are participating, however, those that are genuinely interested in the well being of this great country of ours as well as their own futures and the security of their families, now have a right and a responsibility to participate in this great representative democracy.

INFORMATION SERVICES DEBATE

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 1991

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, there has been much debate already on the issue of Bell Co. entry into the information services business. Undoubtedly, this debate will continue during 1992. This new line of business for the Bell companies will provide the American consumer with more telecommunications choices and opportunities in the future.

At this point, I would like to insert in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher to Telecommunications and Finance Subcommittee Chairman Ed MARKEY recommending a veto of H.R. 3515 if it is sent to the President in its current form.

THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, November 18, 1991.

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, Committee on Energy and Commerce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am writing to express the views of the Department of Commerce on the "Telecommunications Act of 1991" (H.R. 3515). This legislation establishes a series of detailed restrictive rules governing Bell Company entry into information services. Accordingly, if the bill as currently drafted were presented to the President, I would recommend that he veto it.

As you know, the information services restriction of the AT&T Consent Decree was recently terminated in court proceedings, freeing the Bell Companies to enter the information services market. H.R. 3515 would, in effect, reverse substantial parts of the court's decision by establishing a number of preconditions on a Bell Company's provision of information services in its service area. Included among the preconditions is the presence of local exchange competition in the service area, based upon numerical formulae contained in the legislation. The immediate and, in our view, unwarranted effect of these threshold conditions would be to prohibit Bell Company entry into the information services market for the foreseeable future.

The Department of Justice has argued, and the courts have now ruled, that preconditions and restrictions of the type proposed by H.R. 3515 are not necessary as a matter of antitrust policy to allow the Bell Companies to offer information services. The Department of Commerce has reached similar conclusions on communications policy grounds in its recent Infrastructure Report: "Telecommunications in the Age of Information." While promotion of local exchange competition has merit, the overall approach of the bill is unduly restrictive with respect

to Bell Company participation in information services.

Moreover, regulatory safeguards on Bell Company provision of information services are already in place. Regulatory safeguards aimed at preserving competition and preventing unlawful cross-subsidies are in place at the Federal Communications Commission, designed to ensure that the Bell Companies' unregulated businesses are appropriately separated from their regulated services. State regulatory agencies also maintain substantial oversight over the local exchange operations of the Bell companies. About three-fourths of the Bell Companies' telephone exchange services are regulated by the states. Thus, state regulation further reduces the need for extensive, restrictive measures such as those proposed in H.R. 3515. Legislatively mandating detailed safeguards can prove inflexible over time as conditions change. Therefore, the Department opposes these provisions of the bill as well.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the presentation of these views.

Sincerely,

ROBERT A. MOSBACHER.

LATIN BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN CHOOSE WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 1991

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, the Latin Business and Professional Women held its 18th annual banquet on Tuesday, November 19. At the event, the women's group announced its choice for Woman of the Year from among six nominated. All six Hispanic women nominated for the award has shown leadership and service to the community. Also recognized was Lourdes Aguila, who received the Lifetime Achievement award for her work with the La Liga Contra el Cancer. The Miami Herald brought attention to this event in an article which follows:

Six women have been nominated for this year's Woman of the Year Award from the Latin Business and Professional Women.

The award, given by the organization in recognition of merit and achievement of a Hispanic woman in the community, will be presented to the winner at the group's 18th annual banquet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Rusty Pelican Restaurant.

The 1991 nominees are: Alicia Baro, West Miami, executive vice president of the Kendar Companies; Olga Connor, Southwest Dade, executive assistant for Health and Rehabilitative Services; Barbara A. Ibarra, Coral Gables, vice president and director of the Human Resources department of Citibank; Elba Pisano, Fontainebleau, executive director of the National Hispanic Commission for Bone Marrow Transplant; Carmen Portela, South Miami, president of Hands in Action/*Manos en Accion* and Bettina Rodriguez-Aguilera, Kensington Park area, administrative assistant for the Consumer Services Department of Dade County.

During the banquet, AT&T, sponsor of the event, will present the second annual Lifetime Achievement Award to Lourdes Aguila of Coral Gables, general coordinator of *La Liga Contra el Cancer*. She was selected for her volunteer service during the past 13 years.

The women's group also will present the 1991 Employer of the Year Award and a special award will be given to Herb Levin, vice president of WQBA Radio for his support of women in broadcasting.

Tickets are \$45 for members, \$50 for non-members. Proceeds will benefit a scholarship fund and *La Liga Contra el Cancer*. For tickets or more information, call Noemi Ricalo or Beatriz Junco at 856-7474 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Mr. Speaker, this article preceded the event and I have since been informed of the outcome of the annual banquet, which was a wonderful success. I wish to congratulate Carmen Portela who was chosen as Woman of the Year. I also want to recognize the other nominees, Alicia Baro, Olga Connor, Barbara A. Ibarra, Elba Pisano. Lourdes Aguila also deserves recognition for her lifetime commitment to service. The collective contribution of these women to the south Florida community has been significant. I encourage these women and the members of the Latin Business and Professional Women to continue their good work.

H.R. 2977, CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING REAUTHORIZATION

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL RICHARDSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 25, 1991

Mr. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation and would like to commend the chairman of the subcommittee as well as the ranking Republican member for their bipartisan efforts to bring this bill to the floor for final passage.

This legislation is significant in several aspects. First, it represents a renewed commitment on the part of the Federal Government to vigorously fund public broadcasting. Second, and most importantly, this legislation represents a pledge on the part of those in the field of public broadcasting—the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, National Public Radio, and America's Public Television Stations—to move aggressively to expand service and opportunity for rural and minority audiences who continue to be underserved by the Nation's public broadcasting system.

Today, Congress is taking an important step to reinvest in its public broadcasting system. And with that reinvestment comes a responsibility among those in the public broadcasting community to channel significant resources to stations serving rural and minority audiences. And this legislation recognizes that priority by strengthening EEO standards for public broadcasting stations and by placing a stronger emphasis on training and professional development.

I look forward to the completion of CPB's ongoing comprehensive review of its community service grant program. Its recommendations should help guarantee that the rural and minority audiences begin receiving a more equitable share of the Federal pie. I know this subcommittee, under the able leadership of Chairman MARKEY and the ranking member, will remain committed to the goal of expanding opportunity for minority employment and

ensuring that underserved and unserved groups will continue to be brought into the public broadcasting system.

I would urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the bill.

OBSERVING THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GAY MEN'S HEALTH CRISIS

HON. BILL GREEN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 1991

Mr. GREEN of New York. Mr. Speaker, January 4, 1992, will mark the 10th anniversary of the founding in New York City of the Gay Men's Health Crisis [GMHC], the first organization founded to help people with AIDS. During the 10 years of its existence, I have worked with GMHC and have much admiration for the excellent work it does. Because Gay Men's Health Crisis has set the standard for other AIDS organizations that provide services to people with AIDS, I should like to bring to the attention of my colleagues GMHC's valiant work of the past decade.

On that day in 1982, six gay men—Larry Kramer, Nathan Fain, Larry Mass, Paul Popham, Paul Rapoport, and Edmund White—gathered together and took upon themselves the task of helping other gay men who were dying from a disease that had no name. Although there were 400 cases in 1981 of what we now know as AIDS, it had not sparked a public outcry and hardly any information was available.

In a true grassroots tradition those men used the resources at hand to help their friends: Their address books and those of their friends, card tables outside gay discos to raise money, a volunteer's personal answering service to serve as a hot line. During the first night of operation the hot line received 100 calls. The calls ran the gamut from requests for information about AIDS and how to prevent it, to frightened calls from people with the disease who were languishing in hospitals because hospital personnel were too afraid to enter the rooms of AIDS patients. Volunteers manned the hotlines and did whatever they could to provide information, assistance and comfort to those who needed it.

We are now 10 years down the road and have seen the number of people with AIDS go from 400 in 1981 to 171,000 in 1991. Great strides have been made over those 10 years: we know the disease is caused by the human immunodeficiency virus, which respects no boundaries of sexual preference, race, class, gender, age or ethnicity; we now have treatments for people who are HIV-positive that will delay their developing full-blown AIDS; and we know how HIV is and is not transmitted.

Despite these advances a cure has not yet been found, discrimination against people with AIDS still exists, education efforts have been hamstrung by congressional language barring funding of educational materials that "encourage or promote" homosexual activity, and many people lose their jobs and/or their health coverage when they reveal their HIV-positive status.

So much more needs to be done in the struggle against AIDS and GMHC is still at the

forefront of that struggle. GMHC provides to people with AIDS a wide range of needed services: emotional and practical support, representation in court, assistance in resolving problems with health care delivery, financial assistance, nutrition and recreation programs. While the name Gay Men's Health Crisis harkens back to its origins as an organization created to address a disease that was then affecting almost exclusively gay men, as the disease has progressed to all groups of people GMHC has opened its doors to all people with AIDS be they gay or straight, African-American, Hispanic, Asian or white, women, men and children.

I commend Gay Men's Health Crisis and its executive director Timothy Sweeney for their leadership and tireless commitment to the fight against AIDS. I should especially like to thank the many GMHC volunteers who help carry the burden of so many people who suffer from AIDS. There is much that we can learn from GMHC about addressing the AIDS crisis in a rational and compassionate manner. I should ask that we in Congress follow their example and dedicate as many resources as possible to bring about an end to the AIDS epidemic.

AN EFFECTIVE AUTOMOTIVE TRADE POLICY TOWARD JAPAN

HON. JOHN J. LAFALCE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 26, 1991

Mr. LAFALCE. Mr. Speaker, on November 14, I chaired a hearing of the Small Business Committee which confirmed my worst fears about United States automotive trade with Japan. Last year, the United States automotive trade deficit with Japan was an enormous \$31 billion, which comprised 28 percent of the total United States trade deficit. And current projections indicate that the automotive trade deficit with Japan is not expected to improve any time soon.

I have been involved in the issue of United States automotive trade with Japan for the past decade. In 1983, I chaired hearings of the Economic Stabilization Subcommittee concerning voluntary restraint agreements on the import of Japanese cars. In 1987 and again 2 weeks ago I chaired hearings of the Small Business Committee on the U.S. auto parts industry. Each time I visit the issue I find that problem continues unabated despite U.S. trade policies designed to address the issue and despite other changes in the international economic landscape. The automotive trade deficit has persisted despite a 50 percent drop in the value of the dollar against the yen since 1985, despite voluntary restraint agreements on Japanese imports during the past decade, and despite the transplant to the United States of the production of millions of cars in recent years.

Last year Japanese auto imports accounted for 18.5 percent of the United States auto market, and the so-called "transplant" vehicles—cars produced in the United States by Japanese-affiliated automakers—accounted for another 11.6 percent of the United States market. In total, then, 30.1 percent of the cars sold in the United States last year were built by Japanese automakers, and if we eliminate

fleet sales, the Japanese share rises to an incredible 48 percent.

It is no mystery why this problem exists. The United States has given Japanese automakers access to the enormous United States auto market, and Japan has not reciprocated. We can no longer stand idly by and watch high-paying U.S. jobs go overseas.

In contrast to the ineffective United States automotive trade policy, the European Community has dealt with the problem of Japanese auto imports in a relatively straightforward and effective way. Recently, they negotiated an agreement with Japan limiting Japanese car imports to 10.1 percent of the European market. Given that, I am today introducing a bill which will limit Japanese automobile imports to no more than 10.1 percent of the United States car market. This is a bill designed to ensure that we are treated equally with regard to international automotive trade. If 10.1 percent is satisfactory in the European market, it should be satisfactory here as well. And if the administration won't demand equal treatment, Congress should.

I am not a protectionist, when it comes to international trade. I think that such an approach is ultimately self-defeating. But neither do I think that we can ignore reality and sacrifice tens of thousands of good American jobs on the altar of "free trade." That fact is that if the United States fails to respond, then the recent agreement to limit Japanese car exports to Europe will inevitably push the problem across the Atlantic. The Japanese auto industry has essentially two targeted auto markets. The largest is Europe, with over 300 million consumers and an expanding economy. The second is the United States, with 250 million people. If the Japanese cannot sell their cars in the bigger market, they will be forced instead to ship to North America, further hurting our already depressed domestic auto industry.

My bill is very simple, Mr. Speaker. It limits Japanese automobile imports to no more than 10.1 percent of total United States automobile sales. If it had been in effect last year, it would have reduced the number of Japanese auto imports by nearly 50 percent, from 1.7 million to 0.9 million. The bill also includes a sunset provision under which the U.S. quotas would cease after 3 years, absent further legislation. This will give us an opportunity to reassess our policy in light of any changes in Japanese and European policy over the interim period.

This legislation directly addresses the problem of automobiles manufactured in Japan and imported into the United States. But there is a related issue that we will have to come to grips with in the future—the problem of United States trade in auto parts with Japan. The United States auto parts trade balance with Japan is dismal. Last year, our deficit was \$10 billions, and a recent University of Michigan study projected that our deficit could more than double by 1994 to \$22 billion—if nothing is done. The source of this trade imbalance, as indicated in the recent Small Business Committee hearing on the issue, is a systematic tendency by Japanese automakers, including the transplants, to buy from Japanese auto parts suppliers rather than United States suppliers. For the U.S. suppliers, over 80 percent of which are small businesses, the result has been devastating.

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